

BRIEFING PAPER FOR THE PRESIDENT'S PRESS CONFERENCE

January 24, 1963

SUBJECT: Soviet Military Personnel in Cuba

QUESTION: Has there been any further departure of Soviet troops or "technicians" from Cuba? How many are there left in Cuba now?

SUGGESTED POINTS IN REPLY:

There are about 4,000 Soviet military personnel who have left Cuba so far, and there are some 16- to 17,000 still remaining there.

I said on November 20, it was our understanding that the Soviet military units associated with the protection of offensive weapons systems will be withdrawn in due course. Two months have elapsed with disappointingly little progress in this regard. I prefer not to make a new prediction at this time.